

'FRS GOES DX' is a monthly radio magazine which informs about radio in general and free radio in particular. 'FRS GOES DX' is a publication of the Free Radio Service Holland, an independent short wave station, broadcasting to Europe since August 1980.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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CORRESPONDENCE-ADDRESS

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Use this address for:

- * renewing your membership
- * correspondence with regard to the magazine
- * complaints about sending

Letters, news, comments etc. are more than welcome and highly appreciated!

ADVERTISING

For full or half page advertisements contact us and we'll make a quotation. Small ads: non-commercial adverts, relating to the radio-hobby, are free for members.

Commercial adverts (small) cost DM 3.00/ £ 1.00/ f 3.00/ 3 inc's. We also accept German, Dutch or English stamps.

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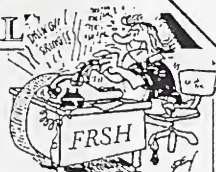
DEADLINE CONTRIBUTIONS: Jan. 13th

EDITORIAL

For the very last time in 1988 I welcome you in 'FRS Goes DX' number 78, volume 7. 1988 was quite an important year for this magazine. Since August a number of changes took place, all for the benefit of this mag! Our variety of information and articles is the greatest we've ever had. Thanks to Barry from ALUK for his positive comments with regard to the Nov. issue. There's NO FRS Newscorner. The things I'd like to mention about the Nov. & Dec. broadcasts are already included in the 'FRSH Annual Report 1988'. I do hope most of you were able to hear the special FRSH X-Mas shows in good quality. As far as reception is concerned, I've good hope of a high number of letters. More about the Dec. pxs in issue 79. One remark about the X-Mas trm: it never happened before that we didn't receive any X-Mas Greetings from the GDR. To put it mildly very strange! I'm sure there were GDR listeners who did send in something. However: we didn't receive anything. Perhaps it has yet to arrive but then the only conclusion can be: too late. The month of December also means that a lot of our subscribers have to renew their membership. I sincerely hope that all of you will continue the membership. Please do it as soon as possible, that makes things a bit easier for our administration. There's no special FRS Sales Prod. offer. To end 1988 in a positive way each member gets 20% discount on each cassette listed on the sales lists. Everyone has certain expectations of 1989. What are your wishes with regard to free radio in 1989? Send them to our Dedemsvaart address and we will include them in the next issue! Our next broadcast will be on January 15th. Stay tuned and enjoy yourself!!

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MAILBOX 41

Hope you all had a nice, maybe even 'white' Christmas and a very pleasant start of the new year!

As you already might know, our transmission on 16 October ended rather abrupt and sad when our relay-station Radio New Wave was raided by the RCD. Here are some of the comments we received:

"Habe vorigen Sonntag erstmals Eure Sendung gehört. Leider konnte ich mir noch kein richtiges Urteil darüber bilden, weil sie unvorhergesehen endete - warum??" asks Jens Scharsig, Leipzig, GDR

"Hi, friends at FRS Holland", writes Lorenz Wiedemann, Wittenberg, GDR, "today I tuned in to your shortwave transmission, first time after your 'good old times' with Delmare! Your program was very good, I think, especially the music. At present there are more FR stations, playing only some records and announcing addresses. So I believe that FRS Holland has the best shows of all SW stations operating these days. Unfortunately I wasn't able to listen to your full programmes, because it seemed your transmitter had some kind of breakdown..."

Uwe Kellerman, Gross-Gerau, BRD writes: "A couple of weeks ago I heard your broadcast on 6225 kHz. An excellent program as always, with a good signal. But just before FRS Goes DX came the shock. I first thought it was a technical problem, but now I know that R. New Wave was raided."

Our short transmission on 20 November came as a surprise to most of you: Jörg Oeynhaus, Maihammen, BRD wrote on that day "Today I captured FRSH, completely out of order, on 6274 kHz with a SINPO of only 42332. I was really astonished because nobody expects the FRSH on the 4th Sunday and I never remember having heard you in such a bad signal quality. But better with a bad signal than with no signal!"

Terry Truman of Newport, England, has a different opinion: "On Sunday 20th November I listened to FRS Holland, This was an unscheduled broadcast because your usual relay station Radio New-Wave was raided. I was sorry to hear about New Wave and hope that they return to the air soon. Reception was quite good with a SINPO of 43233. I enjoyed the show, as I always do and Mark Stafford played some good music. It was unfortunate that this was only a short broadcast, but it was good all the same."

Here are some of the letters we like best; namely those with some personal information in it!

"Today I am writing my 4th/5th letter to your station. I am 19 years old and still going to school. My hobbies are collecting stamps, travelling by bike (in the last summer holidays I cycled from Colone via Luxemburg, Saarbrücken, Mainz to Ludwigshaven - that were nearly 900 km) and the hobby I like most, is listening to shortwave-radio, especially Free-Radio. I started listening to free radio in summer 1986 and as my receiver is a 'small' Grundig RR 350, I was only able to listen to the strong powerful stations. But now, I've got a special antenna for my portable receiver and now it is possible for me to tune in to many free-radio stations", writes Ulrich Hemminghaus, Rödighausen, BRD

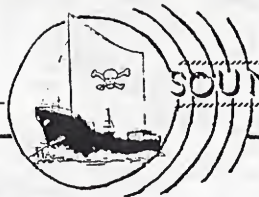
Andreas Thiemann, Sirmach, Switzerland: "I'm 29 years old and working as notary at an international firm in Zurich. Sirmach has about 4000 inhabitants. It's situated in the Eastern part of Switzerland, between Zurich and St. Gall, near the town of Wil SG

Francis Mougenuez of Jeandelize in France states his support for Joop ter Zee: "I am VERY happy to see that Joop ter Zee is back in the magazine! I wish to congratulate Joop for his excellent columns, which make the mag original. Thanks Joop!"

Maybe it's time for a 'Joop-ter-Zee-fanclub'??

Gerd

f.r.s. letters



SOUNDS FROM OFFSHORE

In this month's offshore section the news covering the period Nov. 14th/ Dec. 14th, a period of 4 weeks in which not too much of great importance happened.

RADIO CAROLINE

In the 2nd weekend of November Radio Caroline extended its px-schedule to full 24 hour a day trms on 558 kHz. This could only be done with the help of some of the Dutch Radio 819 deejays. For instance Erwin van de Bliek has already gained quite some experience as a Caroline deejay.... He was joined by Edo Peeters to help the Caroline crew to complete a 24 hour a day schedule. On Friday Nov. 25th it was exactly one year ago that the giant antenna tower on the Ross Revenge collapsed and disappeared into the deep waters of the Northsea. This somewhat sad anniversary was remembered on Caroline 558 by a detailed history which was broadcasted after each news-bulletin on that particular Friday. Nigel Harris paid attention to every detail in connection with the building back up of the station. The story gives a very good summary of the happenings between Nov. 1987 & 1988. Here's the story as it was told by Nigel Harris:



"The 330 foot radio tower on board the Caroline ship Ross Revenge had stood for 6 years, and was known by sea-farers far and wide, as one of the most spectacular sights off the southern English coast. For Caroline, the mast enabled high powered reliable transmission on both 558, home of the 24 hour a day English language service, and on 819 kHz, where Dutch language and religious programming provided diversity of output, and additional sources of income. The storm which hit the Ross Revenge a year ago, was particularly savage, and at 3 AM it became clear that the forces of nature had proved that engineering feats of man to be transient, and must always to be the case. No one was injured when the tower collapsed, although the ship became very unstable for a period, and had to be re-ballasted. In addition, the mast when falling, had destroyed vital and expensive equipment, used to enable two separate signals to be fed through one aerial, and this could not be immediately replaced. Within 8 days, Caroline had resumed on 558 only, with engineers having built a tiny temporary aerial, which put out just enough power to reach the Kent and Essex coastlines. Manned by a skeleton crew of just 4 people, the Ross Revenge survived through to Christmas and New Year 1987, with just a fraction of its original coverage area and audience. During January, The Caroline crew working outside, often in rough weather and sub-zero temperatures, managed to build two, 90 foot masts, and complete a new temporary aerial system, which enable power to increase and the coverage area to be extended as far as London and Holland. However: the ship's transmitters were not suited to lower power operation, and technical breakdowns involving periods off air were common, during Spring and early Summer. In addition, it was not possible to operate any service on 819 kHz, as tests of a new design of carbon fibre transmitting mast, failed in April and May 1988. In July, the decision had to be made reluctantly, to allow the Dutch language station to

offshore news

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recommence operations, by surrendering to them, the 558 kHz frequency during daytime, with Caroline then operating only in the evening and overnight. This style of operation lasted for several months, but enabled funds to become available for the purchase of equipment, to enable two separate frequencies to be fed through the aerial once more. So finally, at the beginning of this month (Nov. 1988), transmissions resumed on 819, with the Dutch moving to this frequency, where evening religious programming was once more able to resume. Caroline is now able to operate as a 24 hour English language music station, and the volume of mail being received, indicates that the audience lost during the last year is quickly being regained. Plans for the future include modification to the aerial, to enable higher power output, so that we can cover all of the south of England, Belgium and Holland. Exactly one year after the disaster, (which many people said would silence Caroline forever), she is alive and kicking and well on the road to recovery. Next year, Caroline celebrates 25 years on the air, and looks forward to another quarter century of successful broadcasting."

Back to the more up-to-date news now. Still no major engineering work has been carried out although the several parts of the new mast are aboard the Ross Revenge. We also heard that apart from the antenna tower two 35m masts were delivered but so far this piece of interesting news hasn't been officially confirmed. These two masts could make the sections superfluous but once again: we don't venture upon the statement that these masts are really lying aboard the ship. All in all the powers of the two AM txs are still very low. Because the current T-aerial can only handle a limited amount of power and because of its ineffectiveness, the 558 power is no more than 1 kW while Dutch colleague radio-station Radio 819 uses 4 kW. They need some more to have a fair signal in the western parts of Holland. Reception in reasonable quality is only limited to 6 hours in more or less remote areas. Before 09.00 CET and after 15.00 CET reception is bad because foreign stations then rule the airwaves on 558. So far very few breaks have been noted in both 558 & 819 trms. Steve Conway went on land for a short period in mid-November. When he returned to the Ross Revenge, he took with him a couple of new presenters. In the mean time the following new names have been noted: Tony Kirk, Kevin Nelson, Ian Palmer, Steve Richards and Dave Fisher (he has only been heard a couple of hours). It was a rather strange experience knowing a complete new team presenters took over during the weekend a couple of weeks ago. The regular weekday presenters stayed aboard but were able to take a two day rest! Dave Asher returned after a break of some months to the RR. Together with the other deejays (the ones you already know) Caroline has approx. 16 deejays working for the station currently. Caroline deejays are no longer asking for personal top 3's but for top 10's. These top 10's are going to be used to compile an all time Caroline top 1000 which is planned for the Easter weekend 1989 when the 25th anniversary will be celebrated. Caroline close-down is at 01.00 CET (00.00 UTC). A 24 hour schedule is only operated over the weekends. Since a couple of weeks Caroline can't be heard anymore on 819 kHz after Viewpoint's sign off



offshore news

Most of the time the 819 kHz tx is taken off the air after Viewpoint's close-down. Maybe to save some fuel? But it has also happened that Radio 819 was heard in the middle of the night with taped pxs!! What's the intention of this??? At 01.00 CET when W.M.R. closes down, Caroline is also heard on 6215 kHz SW. Since the end of November 'Viewpoint 819' is almost completely running according to the proposed schedule. A couple of pxs disappeared but these have been replaced by others.

RADIO 819

Reception of Radio 819 in Holland is fair but like Caroline limited to a certain time period. Last month we mentioned that Radio 819 pxs started at 07.00 CET. This has to be 05.00 CET!! Between 5-7am non-stop music is being played. Currently the station isn't running a newsservice for unknown reasons. Radio 819 has planned special X-Mas shows over the X-Mas weekend. Part of these shows will be pre-recorded on land. As from Jan. 1st onwards, the 09.00-11.00 CET taped morning show will be replaced by a new listeners request show with semi non-stop music. Name of the new show is 'Reality'. One of Radio 819's key-figures as far as the programming is concerned, Ad Roberts, has been quitting the station due to disagreements with certain happenings in connection with supplies. BBC are planning a new service called BBC Radio Hereford & Worcester on...819 kHz. We are curious what influence it will have on the 819 signal emanating from the Ross Revenge.

WORLD MISSION RADIO

The WMR DX-px can be heard twice over the weekend: every Sat & Sun between 11.00-12.00 CET. A few changes have been noted in WMR's schedule which now reads as follows:

07.00-07.30	Bible Explanation
07.30-07.45	Abundant Life - Tony F. Abraham
08.00-08.30	Johan Maasbach (Dutch)
12.00-12.30	Johan Maasbach (English)
13.00-13.15	Abundant Life
17.00-17.30	Johan Maasbach (Dutch)
20.00-20.15	Abundant Life
22.00-22.30	Johan Maasbach (English)
22.30-23.00	Bible Explanation



The rest of the time between 06.00-01.00 is filled with gospel songs. Since early Dec. WMR is broadcasting all day long only Christmas carols in between the scheduled pxs.

ISRAEL

A new offshore broadcast vessel 'Erets Hatsui' returned to Int. waters in the middle of Nov. Friday Oct. 28th the ship upped anchor and sailed into the harbour of Haifa. Meanwhile tests have been re-commenced on 981 kHz AM with 10 kW of power. The station's name is Channel Seven.

RADIO NEW YORK INT'L

A couple of weeks ago the RNI ship was forced to leave its anchorage off Long Island and sailed back into Boston harbour. It seems the U.S. authorities were exerting pressure on the RNI people. According to our correspondent the MV Sarah is put up for sale for \$125,000/£70,000!

offshore news

With a delay of some 4 weeks, the ITALIAN RADIO RELAY SERVICE started a series of short wave test transmissions at the end of November. The tests are intended to check out the complete technical installation including transmitter, antennas & audio processing equipment. The SW tx has a maximum power of 10 kW but it's not for sure whether full power has been used so far. Most likely the IRRS did. Ofcourse the tests are also carried out to show prospective clients the possibilities of, quoting the IRRS, "a new, powerful and reliable relaying Service in the European Short Wave broadcasting scenario." The IRRS announced to use frequencies in the 3, 7, 9 & 13 MHz bands. At the moment the tests commenced the following frequencies were announced: 3945, 7145, 7160, 9860 & 11995 kHz. That means no 13 MHz frequency is used; instead a 11 MHz channel is chosen. 3945 has been used after 15.00 UTC and a very strong signal was heard in W-Europe early December. 7160 has been used several times with fair/good signal-strength and a good overall merit. 7160 is mostly used during the morning hours between 08.00 and 10.00 UTC. When trms on 7160 are ended, a switch is made to 9860 (10.00-12.00 UTC). So far 9860 & 7160 have been used extensively. Not much is known about 11995. The IRRS SW facility tests are planned to last for a period of 4 weeks. It is expected the tests will cease by the end of December. That means that regular broadcasts could commence in January of 1989. The fact that the IRRS is using high-tech sophisticated audio/modulation processing equipment is very important for the actual signal quality. Even at periods when signal-strength is only fair, the overall sound remains very powerful making one think signal-strength is very good! That shows how important a high-levelled mod on SW is. The results with the present audio processing equipment is impressive. That also proves the IRRS is a much more professional organization in compare with Radio Milano Int., a couple of years ago active on SW as a relay-service. So far various stations/organizations have been making use of the possibility to participate in the tests at no cost! To mention a couple: World Music Radio, Radio Earth Int. (also active via RMI on 7295 some years ago), Unesco Radio, United Nations Radio and two German stations: Radio Marabu & Radio Limit Int. Although the rates for leasing airtime via the IRRS' facilities are competitive, it looks like the rates are beyond the reach of relatively small stations like most European hobby pirates are. For organizations who have a more or less solid financial backing it seems the IRRS is the ideal relay-facility!!

* Last month we mentioned that CONTACT 94 had changed name into Continental FM. So far this hasn't happened. A French relay-transmitter is being used to provide the Channel Islands with a healthy signal. The frequency for the Channel Islands is 97.7 MHz.

* November 28th Capital Radio London started with a 24 hour specialized 'All Gold' Service under the name CAPITAL GOLD. Reception is during evening hours easily possible on the continent on 1548 kHz. During evening hours there are 4 hours of spoken word on the station. Part of these 4 hours is a 30 min. newsreel.

* The double album which was released on the occasion of BBC Radio One's 21st anniversary has been bought by more than 100,000 people. The album 'landed' in the British album charts.



SKY RADIO

Satellite Radio EUROPE'S FIRST NON-STOP MUSIC STATION ON SATELLITE

By Chris Latiers

Friday September 30th a third Dutch satellite radio-station started broadcasting: SKY RADIO. This station differs from its counterparts Cable One and Radio 10 at several points. Most remarkable of these differences: Sky Radio only plays non-stop music, only coming from CD, without interruptions by deejays and the format is very "tight".

Sky Channel already had plans for a radio-station a long time ago, but they couldn't find a suitable producer, until they made contact with Rob de Boer, who is responsible for programmes like Countdown (Veronica and Sky). Sky Radio is owned and operated by "Sky Radio Ltd.", which in its turns is a joint-venture of "News International" (holding-company of Sky Channel) and "Radio! bv", owned by Rob de Boer productions. The programmes are made in Bussum, Holland and are transferred by a music-line to London, from where the signal goes to the satellite as a so-called "sub-carrier" to the television-signal of Sky.



Operations-manager of Sky Radio is Ton Lathouwers, former Veroniva employee. Maybe some of you remember him as "Hans Verlaan", disk-jockey on the Dutch service of Radio Caroline back in 1980. Nowadays he takes every opportunity to express his aversion to offshore-radio. Maybe that's because he was one of the people who was rescued in a dramatic operation from the *Mi Amigo*, when this ship sank in March 1980. Hans, at the age of 17, was the only Dutchman on board the radio-ship at that time.

The main reason to operate without deejays is, the station wants to be "pan-european". When deejays use a certain language

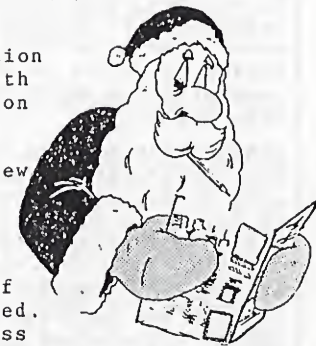
listeners in other countries would consider the station as "foreign". A second reason is many people are fed up with all those endless chatting deejays, who only want to hear themselves. We could imagine there's another reason for the absence of presenters: money. But this ground isn't mentioned officially.

All the music comes from CD to reach the best possible audio-quality. The format can be described as "adult contemporary": pop-music without extremities (eg. no heavy metal or Dutch folk music). As a result not every top 40 record will be played. Also no disco can be heard. That's because most receivers capable of picking up the signal are located in living-rooms. Sky wants to please most members of the listening family and tries to avoid irritating anybody. Therefore twice an hour a real golden classic will be played. Every week 80 classics and

* Peter Moss, station-manager of FALCON RADIO, sent us an info-sheet from which we have been taking the most important bits and pieces. Due to the impending new broadcasting bill in Ireland, silencing all free radio activities as from Jan. 1st onwards, the IRRS will move its SW tx from Ireland. The new location is at present being kept secret. The IRRS will continue with Tim Teesdale on a new frequency yet to be announced. The DX-Show is scheduled between 8 & 9 UTC. Till Jan. 1st the px is to be heard on 7316 in the 41 mb. Falcon Radio will continue broadcasting in the new year, also on a new frequency. The staff of the station is not satisfied with the current 7316 kHz due to the presence of a very strong BBC tx on 7325, causing splatter on Falcon's upper side band. The Falcon Radio line-up for 1989 will consist of no less than 5 deejays being Peter Moss, Tony King, Mike Allen & Phil who will join Falcon right after Radio Susan's close down. There's also a French presenter called Patrick Champvert. As from Jan. 1st 1989 Falcon Radio will be known as "Falcon Radio, the rock of Europe" playing the best rock from the 50's, 60's, 70's & 80's. The move to a new channel should improve reception. Falcon is considering the idea of a listeners letter px in future. Addr.: MAC P.O.Box 109, Northampton, UK. Don't put the station-name on your envelope. Dec. 26th Falcon will air a special X-Mas Show on 7316 09.00- 13.00 UTC. There's a good chance Falcon's new frequency will be in the 44mb. Some two years ago the station was regularly transmitting on 6830 kHz. Falcon's sister-station, RADIO SUSAN, will close down Jan. 1st. That day live-pxs will be aired on 7316 between 09.00- 13.00 UTC. That day the winner of the joint Susan/Falcon competition will be drawn and announced. The decision to close-down was brought about by the impending new radio bill in Ireland. The very last Susan trm will also be the last 7316 broadcast. During the Falcon R. broadcast Dec. 26th there will be telephone lines available for people who are taking part in the competition. Keep an eye on one of these numbers: (0)604-402242 or (0)933- 401409.

* THE VOICE OF THE NETHERLANDS is a new station which was first heard Nov. 13th on 6205 with a good signal. The station was also noted on 6270 Dec. 4th. The output of the station's tx seems to be approx. 90w. The station is looking for a suitable maildrop. Another new Dutch station is RADIO EAST COAST HOLLAND and was heard Dec. 4th on 6273. Talking about Dutch stations: following the raid on Radio New Wave Oct. 16th, most of the Dutchies on SW, were silent for a couple of weeks, frightened as they were to get raided. Eversince most of them have returned witness the many Dutch qso-stations making use of the 48 mb. A popular spot on the dial seems to be 6270/6275. Heard on these frequencies in recent weeks were Radio Pluto, Radio Pacman, Voice of the Neth., Radio EC Holland & Radio Peter Bell.

* RADIO TONAIR produced a massive signal on 6205 Sun Dec. 11th, totally blocking out Radio Fax's 6205 signal. The station OP mentioned a power of no less than 1 kW. Address: P.O.Box 21, 7010 AA Gaanderen in Holland.



* Sunday Dec. 11th saw the unexpected return of RADIO NEW WAVE. The station was first noted on 6225 kHz but changed already soon to 6230 due to Radio Claymore being active on 6223.6 Kc. RNW was heard with excellent signal-strength and mod quality making listening very enjoyable. The power of the tx was nearly 125w. The station is making use of a new location and brief trms are planned every 4 or 5 weeks. RNW's return came as a surprise since it was only 8 weeks ago when the station was raided. Address: RNW, P.O.Box 536, 7900 AM Hoogeveen, Holland.

* UNION RADIO seems to be a new Dutch station testing on 7372 kHz Dec. 4th. The choice of frequency wasn't the best one because of the French stations RWI & Radio Luce using 7375. Signal-strength on 7372 was poor/fair. Although the station's address is in Hoogeveen, there seems to be no connection with RNW or Radio Blond Pirate. Address: P.O.Box 589, 7900 AN Hoogeveen, Holland.

* RADIO EUROPE is a new Italian SW venture. The station was logged Nov. 20th on 7296 kHz with a weak signal. Not astonishing since the tx power is only 40w. Tests are carried out in 3 languages: Italian, French & English. Frequencies are 7280 or 7296. The station operates from the northern part of Italy, in the surroundings of Milan. A regular service is planned for the Saturdays & Sundays between 08.00- 11.00 UTC. Note the following address: Radio Europe c/o Play-DX, Via Davanzati 8, 20158 Milan, Italy.

* RADIO SCORPIO have ceased their broadcasts via the SFRN. One of the reasons may be the impending new Irish broadcasting law. On the other hand the Scorpio people were dissatisfied with the listeners response in connection with the trms via the SFRN. Radio Telex were informed about the fact Radio Scorpio would be back on Sun:Dec. 11th between 09.00- 11.00 UTC on 6238 kHz. This piece of news seems to be untrue. A certain misunderstanding... Scorpio is hoping to return in 1989. The staff is looking for new relay-possibilities enabling Scorpio to continue on a regular basis. Address: (4).

* X-MAS RADIO is a Dutch station, specially set up to broadcast on Dec. 25th and 26th between 09.00- 14.00 GMT. A 50w tx will be used on possibly 7315 kHz to avoid the overcrowded 48 mb. Expect freaky, alternative pxs and long album tracks. The station has qsl-cards. Address: P.O.Box 11175, Amsterdam, Holland.

* WEEKEND MUSIC RADIO is planning to hit the airwaves Dec. 25th/26th and Jan. 1st with mostly live programming and a few taped shows. The station plans to be on 6317 (following the absence of the SFRN?) with 100w of power. A second interesting frequency is 15045. A 20w tx will be used on the latter frequency. There's a little chance a 3rd tx will be used in the range between 7400- 7500 Kc. Keep an eye on 7385/7403/7455/7460/7465.



There's even some chance of having an extra 20w tx on 31 metres on 9910 or around 9.1/ 9.2 MHz. Special loop tape tests will be made on 15045 kHz with 100w of power between 18- 23 UTC and between 02.00- 09.00 UTC. GERman listeners will perhaps be surprised with a German show over the X-Mas period. Thanks to RT for this newsitem! Address WMR: 42 Arran Close, Cambridge, England

* RADIO INDIGO from Holland will return on SW very soon with its own tx. In the past the station made use of several relay-stations. The last px over a relay took place Sept. 25th. Indigo plans to be back pretty soon, depending on the fact how soon the new tx is tested and operational for trms. The last piece of news: the tx is tested and is in full working order! Indigo is looking for a suitable location. If they succeed, there will be a Boxing Day trm on 5295 kHz ! Address: (4).

* RADIO INTERNATIONAL made a couple of tests on SW during the past few weeks. For instance Sun Dec. 4th the station was logged on 6272 in German. No further details are known. If anybody can help, please send your info's to 'FRS Goes DX', FRSH (1).

* Sunday Nov. 20th a new station was heard on 6293 with fair signal strength. Also a week later RADIO GLORIA was noted on more or less the same frequency. However: signal-strength remained rather weak.

* After some months of very regular monthly trms, RADIO KRISTEL INT. made the final broadcast on 6295 Sun Nov. 27th. This happened under not too good circumstances due to band-noise and utility near to the Kristel frequency. Kristel was to be heard every 4th or 5th Sunday and it was a station operating from the greater London area. Address: 294 Godstone Road, Whyteleaf, Surrey, U.K.

* FREESOUND RADIO from the UK plans a Christmas broadcast Sun Dec. 25th. Listeners are requested to send dedications and musical requests. Frequency could be around 6265 kHz. Address: 32 Victoria Rd, Salisbury, Wiltshire in the U.K.

* Following a test in November, RADIO BATIDA started regular broadcasts Sun Dec. 4th with a fair signal. Trms are taking place on a rather unusual spot: 6582 kHz. If the station stays on that channel remains to be seen. In the past it has been proved several times that it is very difficult to run a regular service on an out of band frequency because most listeners concentrate on the 48 mb where the majority of stations can be found. Batida plans to be on air every 4 to 6 weeks with a 6 hour schedule (!). Pxs will run between 09.00- 15.00 CET. Four persons are hosting the shows: Jonathan Dee (Starfleet Radio), Charlie Prince (Radio Joystick), Mike Ef and Jennifer. Batida returned on SW after a 4 year absence. The station's format consists lots of soul and black music. Address: RT, Drop Box Batida, P.O.B. 103771, D-2800 Bremen in W-G.

* STARFLEET RADIO was heard with good signal-strength on the 3rd Sun of Nov. As from now on, Starfleet will be on air every 3rd Sun with a 4-hour trm. On the 20th of Nov. 6305 was announced but instead 6240 was in use. In actual fact 6305 isn't a bad idea since BRI occupies this frequency every 2nd & 4th Sun. Coincident or not: BRI made an unscheduled trm Nov. 20th on 6305. So it was good s.w. news Starfleet was on 6240

frs goes dx

frs goes XP

* **RADIO BRIGITTE**, the one and only Belgian short wave station, was heard Sat Nov. 19th & Sun Nov. 20th. The VFO-controlled tx doesn't like staying on the same frequency so in fact the station is drifting nice and slow between 6555 & 6563 kHz. Signal-strength is good but the mod. quality is - to put it mildly - appalling. It seems the station does not intend to carry out any modifications since the mod problem already exists for a long period. Address: P.O.B. 10, 7954 ZG Rouveen, Holland.

* **RADIO DIAMOND** tested a new tx on Sun Nov. 20th. Apparently the station is not dead witness this test which took place in the 57 mb on 5295 kHz. A good signal was noted. More trms will follow on the same frequency. Address: (2).

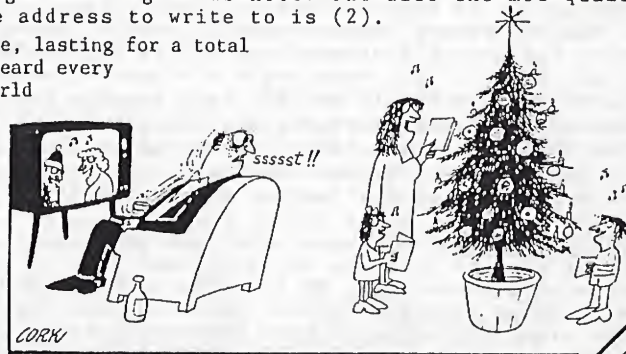
* According to the English 'Activity' magazine, **EUROPEAN MUSIC RADIO** is thought to have been raided in August. This didn't happen during a regular broadcast but when a qso was being made. Equipment was taken but no people were caught. It is a mystery who actually took the equipment. Fact is that E.M.R. hasn't been heard with pxs since July. Address: BCM Box 65, London WC1, U.K.

* **RADIO 48** from the UK has been very active over the past few weeks. Sun Nov. 27th a fair signal was noted on 6312 kHz. Sun Dec. 11th yet another trm was made on 6312 with a fair/good signal on the continent. One of Radio 48's d.j.'s is Mark Stafford who is also on Atlanta and FRS-Holland. Radio 48 can be contacted via 32 Victoria Rd, Salisbury, Wiltshire in the U.K.

* **RADIO UNIVERSUM** from W-Germany was heard with a special 3rd anniversary broadcast Sun Dec. 3rd. The trm is believed to be made via Universum's own tx which provided a healthy signal on 6281 kHz. Sun Dec. 11th Universum was noted on 6296 with once again a good signal. Address: P.O.Box 220342 etc. (2).

* Sun Dec. 11th **RADIO CLAYMORE** was noted on 6224 kHz with a lengthy 4½ hour broadcast. A lot of folk music was played, something you don't hear very often on a Sunday morning on the 48 mb... During a short period the powerful tx of Radio New Wave caused heavy interference but luckily Radio New Wave moved to 6230, well done!! The conditions were not very favourable during the earlier part of the morning. Later on conditions improved and 6233 became much clearer. Good signal-strength was noted and also the mod quality was alright. The address to write to is (2).

* A new mediaprogramme, lasting for a total of 30 min., can be heard every Thursday via BBC World Service. The name of the programme is **Media Watch**. Presenter is Keith Hindle. Times: 08.30, 14.45 and 21.30. Give it a try!



S.W. news

frs goes dx

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that reception in the UK was badly affected by European Music Radio on 6265. Simply an unlucky coincident. Nevertheless all FRS people were very satisfied with the come-back after a two month's silence. Power was 150W and some 40 letters were received from the GDR, FRG, Finland, Sweden, France, Belgium, England and Holland.



MAY

After the quite successful April broadcast we were ofcourse hoping for a continuation of relays via RBP. However: the OP of the station was very busy involved in a removal... It was early May when I called the OP. He asked if we already had an alternative. My answer was no. 'Wait, perhaps I do have something for you' he said. A minute later I was speaking to the OP of RNW who was visiting RBP that same evening. Coincident or a good patron saint ?? Within moments things were arranged and the FRSH May 3rd Sun trm was guaranteed! It was Friday May 13th a little package with px-tapes and two X-tals (6260 & 6258) were sent to the north-east of The Netherlands. A 3rd X-tal was sent on Thursday May 12th from Amsterdam to the OP's address. It was intended to use 6205 since Caroline had moved back to 6215 in the mean time. The 6205 x-tal didn't arrive in time. The OP of RNW called Saturdays and it appeared he had a 6201 X-tal available (which was in my opinion better than 6258/6260). Sun May 15th at 09.45 CET: Radio Tonair is on 6205 with a very strong signal.. At 09.50 CET, 4 min. before FRSH commences trm, Tonair signs off. A miracle or...?? Between 10.00- 10.40 CET an excellent signal on 6201. Then suddenly a very strong utility station on 6199.5 kHz causing very heavy interference. A call to the OP was made and at 10.58 CET when the px-cassette had to be changed frequency was changed to 6258. Some 15 min. later there was also utility on 6258, less strong in compare with 6199.5 but nevertheless very annoying. An eye is kept on 6199.5 and at approx. 11.30 CET the utility station has left the air. So a 2nd call is made and after a few attempts I finally have the opportunity to speak to the OP. At 12.00 CET FRSH is once again on 6201 ! Reception for the rest of the trm perfect. Power was some 200W and response was fair: some 30 letters.

JUNE

RNW was willing to relay FRSH every 3rd Sun for approx. 3/3½ hours Sunday June 19th FRSH's 79th regular 3rd Sun would take place. Knowing what could go wrong (as far as the choice of frequency is concerned) 3 x-tals were enclosed in the package which was sent to RNW. 6205 had our preference and so it happened a fantastic signal was to be heard on that QRG Sun June 19th early in the morning. But at already 10.10 CET a horrible hum on 6201 makes good reception impossible between 6194 and 6208.... Even the fact FRSH was on 6205.5, 4.5 kHz higher, was not enough to avoid heavy interference. I'm still not sure which station it was but putting some bits and pieces together it must have been Radio Tonair, the only station able to provide such a strong signal (and horrible hum as well!). To prove how bad things were: even on a location very near to the RNW tx location, reception of FRSH was nearly impossible. A move is made to 6258 and luckily we can go back to 6205.5 at 11.00 CET where we stay till 13.30 CET

frs goes dx

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All in all a good transmission providing a fair amount of letters from a total of 6 countries.

JULY

Because of holidays and because of the approaching 8th Birthday transmission, there's no FRS broadcast. A lot of time is spent to improve the quality of 'FRS Goes DX' and believe me, that was a major job costing tens of hours. The first preparations are taking place to have a wonderful 8th Birthday transmission. At the end of July it's 100% certain that FRSH will broadcast on no less than 3 frequencies Aug. 28th !

AUGUST

A month in which a lot of very hard work has been done. Making a px-schedule, informing a couple of radio-magazines about the upcoming Birthday-trm, informing the FRS deejays what has to be done and what will happen, making arrangements with the people who are relaying FRSH. And: preparing a DX-Show and the special 1½ hour FRS Birthday Show. The latter show contained a full FRS-Holland History, divided in several parts. Compiling this history took a lot of time but was more than worth while. And what do you think of the FRS contest which had to be devised and recorded. For this special broadcast 4½ hours were recorded. Frequencies on that day are 6225 (200W), 6287 (15W) and 7290 (18W). Reception on 6225 was excellent with maybe the best audio we have ever provided on SW ! 6287 was also quite satisfactory although at 14.00 CET the tx was switched off because of car-batteries which went flat. Reception on 7290 is a chapter on its own because the skip on 41 metres can be rather funny during the summer months. We have received some very good reports for the 7290 frequency, so things on 7290 weren't bad at all. A total of 75 reports were received from 10 European countries. Reports for 6225 were extra-ordinary good. What a transmission ! But there was more in August. Following very intensive preparations a first step is being made to improve the monthly 'FRS Goes DX' magazine. The result can be looked at in the renewed August issue. A first important step.

SEPTEMBER

A 6225 X-tal was ordered but didn't arrive in time, so the September trm had to be made on 6205.5 which wasn't the best choice because of Radio Fax, since the end of July occupying 6205 from the eastcoast of Ireland. Reception on the continent very good completely blocking out Fax. In the UK things were a bit different because of being closer to Fax' tx location. There was no Mark Stafford Show because of a postal strike in the UK and Danny Kay had other commitments. So: no International Service. 30 letters were received which is not bad after that successful August trm.

OCTOBER

The Oct. 16th trm was only a very brief one. At 11.10 CET the mod disappeared and within a minute the signal followed. Till that time reception was splendid on 6224 kHz. A call with RBP learnt that a technical failure was causing the break. What a relief, no RCD ! But within minutes the OP of RNW brought the bad news: he was raided. Luckily only the TX and modulator were confiscated. The rest of the equipment was untouched.

Even the px-cassettes weren't touched... The only thing one of the two RCD men asked was whether the tapes were coming from Germany or England... What a hang-over knowing RNW was a perfect relay-station. And what a bad luck for the OP of RNW. The raid of RNW was one of a total of 8 raids that same day in the surroundings of Hoogetveen (6 FM stations and 1 MW). FRS-Holland had to find a new relay-facility. To remind you: in Jan. 1983 FRSH was raided. March 1984 Radio Delmare, in those days FRSH's relay-station, was raided. Delmare was raided for a second time in May 1987 during a FRS relay. Superclan which used to relay us in the second half of 1987, was raided in Nov. 1987. And to complete this sad series of raids we add the RNW raid Oct. 1988.

NOVEMBER

An unexpected relay-possibility was offered. The cassettes which were sent by express didn't reach their destination in time which is a big shame. Without nationalist feelings I blame the English post for this. The Nov. 20th broadcast was an emergency one because of the non-arrival of the tapes. However: Mark Stafford did some great work and thus a 45 min. Mark Stafford Show was aired. This happened on 6235. It was intended to air the FRS pxs with a very powerful 150W tx. However: serious problems with the modulation and RF feedback prevented this. The actual output was more or less 10W.. Taking this low into consideration signal-quality was not bad at all ! Monday Nov. 21st the actual px-tapes arrived and Sun Nov. 27th, the 4th Sun (for a change), a 2½ hour FRS broadcast took place on 6275 with once again 10W and...a nice signal. It is interesting to mention the fact that on Sun Nov. 20th the 150W tx has been on air a couple of times for only a couple of seconds. Anybody who discovered this? There was a carrier on 6235 and a few times this carrier was very, very strong. Those moments 150W were being used.

DECEMBER

Already in October a 6-hour relay was arranged for the special FRS X-Mas broadcast, Sun Dec. 18th. An oldfashioned long FRSH transmission with listeners' X-Mas/ New Year's Greetings, requests etc. An attractive px-schedule was compiled and a couple of magazines were informed about the special trm. Special info-sheets were sent to several listeners. Quite some participation of listeners turned the whole transmission into a real X-Mas happening even when broadcasted a week before X-Mas. Although it's very difficult to draw the right conclusion, having regards to the fact these words are written one day after the trm, things look promising. Reception was varying but most of the time good and stable. Mod quality was very good and, apart from TWR, there was no serious interference from any station. A minor problem occurred during the Danny Kay Show when the speed of the tape-player was too slow. But this was set to rights within 10 minutes. It looked like most stations were saving powers for Dec. 25th since only very few stations were on Dec. 18th. Perhaps that has given us some extra listeners. Certainly Dec. 18th was a worthy 'goodbye' to 1988. Let's hope most of you agree. Cheers....

Because of the sad events in Oct. 1988 I forgot to mention in Oct. the mag got its definitive brandnew 'shape' following a period of preparations. A great improvement, hopefully producing a high number of new members.

By Nicholas Sharpe

Radio Zodiac International was until its close down in 1980, one of Europe's longest running short wave free radio station, having first been formed way back in the summer of 1974. Ofcourse since 1980 a number of stations have been active for longer periods such as Rdio Gemini and also we ought to mention Free Radio Service Holland together I suppose with European Music Radio. However returning back to the story of Radio Zodiac International it was back in the second half of the summer of 1974 that transmitters were prepared for the great start wich came on Easter Sunday (March 1975). The test transmissions went out on 6225 kHz, this channel was also used for the firstreal successful broadcast on 15th June 1975. The deejays that could be heard during those tests were Chris Patricks, Dave Johnston, Martin Allen and Dave Sinclair. The transmissions in the following year (1977) were few and far between with a number of new channels being tested such as 6235 kHz. Than in 1977 plans were put into action with the formation of a new monthly service. Naturally at this stage it was necessary for the station to recruit further staff which were found to help run the station from its numerous mobile transmitting sites. These new staff were as follows; Roger Vosene who became the station's new manager, Stuart Clarke with his punk style show and Dave Hunt who built what was described as one of the best studio's in the world of short wave pirate radio.

The first of the new regular programmes were transmitted on Christmas Day 1977, with another one on New Year's Day 1978 and this was then followed with the regular forth Sunday of the month schedule until the September of that year. For it was then announced that Radio 49 (Steve Most's station) and Radio Zodiac International would join te become one known simply as Radio Zodiac 49. The first transmission that went out under this new joint name was on the 2nd Sunday of October and from that stage onwards the station would be on the air every Second and Forth Sunday of the month. The nwe year of 1979 saw a number of changes taking place with the station. The January transmission was shortened as the station experiancedd some technical problems, suspected sightings of the G.P.O. (RCD for Dutch readers) and somebody taking the on-site playback machine. Now for the first time a new channel of 6290 kHz was tested, but later dropped and Radio 49's deejay John Dawson left the station. Readers might recall this name from the London FM scene since John Dawson set up a station called South London Radio on 92.2 MHz, which later became the present London Weekend Radio.

There was no broadcast in April 1979 and the final joint broadcast of Radio Zodiac '49 took place in May and in the month of June saw the return of Radio Zodiac International, less Stuart Clarke who had set up his own station called Radio Mercury. The replacement deejay to join the station was Kevin Turner who was later to appear on Radio Caroline before going over to Soutern Ireland's A.B.C. Radio in Waterford.

In July the station broadcasted on the new frequency of 6235 kHz as part of the then new network of stations in the infamous 6235 kHz network which included such stations as A.B.C. Radio, European Music Radio and Radio Zenith. In October all the stations agreed that the broadcast would additional go out on 7325 kHz in parellel with 6235 kHz.

The station continued like this until its closure on 26th October 1980. The address at that time having changed from 13 The Chase, Crawly, Sussex to 222 Hill Rise Road, Romford, Essex.

(to be cont. on page 21)

Frs Feature

*** After our X-mas show, some things to read *** Between the TURKEY or the CHICKEN and the TOMATEN-CREME SOEP *** Of course a happy X-mas for you all on behalf of me *** As we say in Dutch; on behalf of ONDERGHETHEKENDU *** ** Christmas is always a good reason to visit the Peter Verbruggen-studio once again. ** I must say, it's a beautiful studio, but what a disappointment it was to see ONLY ONE tape-recorder ** You must know, there is a big RACE going on ** Who has the most HARDWARE ** We both have each 2 turntables, 4 cassette-decks *** But number one is still my OWN studio with 2 Tape Decks ** Let this be a warning for YA, Verbruggen, NUMBER THREE IS ON IT'S WAY... *** Since my last visit to Peters studio he GAINED a CD player WITH remote control *** I don't have a remote **** But, nevertheless, a CD with remote can't COMPETE with THREE tape-decks *** Then again I must admit; he has a beautiful new AMP *** Hm, let's see *** What's COOKING here at FRSH *** As you noticed there were no A.T. last month *** It's sad to see the magazine going DOWN when I can't participate *** For instance, did you notice the FELLOW on the cover last month? ** It was Rob Stenders !! ** One of Veronica's MOST IRRITATING d.j.'s on Radio 3 ** I just can't stand his BLOODY chit-chat with his annoying GOOIS accent *** So, please no more STENDERS on our front. ** No can do, man ** These days everybody sounds similar on our 'POP' station Radio 3 *** Maybe I should write a piece about that.... *** Maybe in a Dutch radio-magazine.. *** That's one of the reasons I tune in to the Belgium Studio Brussel *** They play better music and you don't here the 'big hits' every hour ** I don't have to listen to RICK A. every hour, or BOBBY McF. * Jazz and the Pl. ? ** BANANA R. ? ** So that's it for this month. ** All the best for next year ** And please be careful with the CHAMPAGNE at the 31st... ** Last year GERD lit his SW receiver and threw it away... *** Instead of a fire-cracker.. ** Bye,

additional Lay-Out: Zee

Words : Zee

Although that ends the story of Radio Zodiac Int. as a short wave station, it was a few years later, in about 1984, that the station could be heard under the slightly new name of Radio Zodiac FM and Under the control of Roger Vosene the station could be heard over most of the London area in FM stereo on 94 MHz. A 150W tx was used in those days. The station remained on this channel for some time, broadcasting only on a Sunday afternoon until a number of GPO raids on various stations resulted in the station finally closing down.



By Hans Knot

dx
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dx

In the early 70's Carl McIntire was running two radio-stations, WXUR AM and WXUR FM, in a little village called Media in the state of Pennsylvania, U.S.A. At a certain moment he got problems with the Federal Comm. Commission, the government body responsible for controlling radio and TV stations under the slogan: are the stations observing the rules? Early 1973 the FCC announced that McIntire had caused some problems. They mentioned a somewhat strange reason. The reality was that McIntire's stations had taken a clear point of view with regard to a number of sensational newsitems. Stations are obliged to broadcast both sides of certain newsitems without showing a preference. July 5th 1973 both radio-stations of McIntire left the airwaves. During the last transmission McIntire promised to return with a brandnew station within 14 days. Name of the station would be Radio Free America. A ship was bought. The MV Oceanic, the original name, was re-named in MV Columbus. McIntire thought the ship would be rebuilt within two weeks but that was only a dream. However: at the end of August the MV Columbus dropped anchor 3 miles east of Cape May in Int. Waters. The trms didn't start on 1160 kHz although McIntire promised so during a press conference. There were problems with the generators and transmitter. It took another 7 days or so before Radio Free America commenced test-trms. An offshore off the US coast isn't quite common and thus several reporters appeared on the 'pirate-horizon' to write their own story. McIntire was called a person locked in on land who ruled from the deck of his ship, calling the latter the Moby Dick of free speech. McIntire thought he was freed from any government exertions and controls because of the fact his ship was lying outside the 3 miles limit. Rev. McIntire, in those years almost 70 years old, and member of the Bible Presbyterian Church of Collings Wood was even prepared to face imprisonment to be put in the right. Right after the MV Columbus dropped anchor, a number of FCC employees hired a number of hotel-rooms in a hotel, situated very near to the coast, ready to pick up signals coming from the good ship Columbus. They intended to ask a judge to instruct the captain of the Columbus to immediately cease trms. This action would be undertaken as soon as the first signal was picked up. McIntire declared he wouldn't offer any resistance in case the FCC or the coastguard would take Radio Free America off the air since it was his intention to provoke a court-case. Aboard the ship there were pistols and guns but these were only meant for self-defence in case robbers would raid the ship! The headquarters of McIntire were having its seats in a hotel where only aged people were living. McIntire refused to call his ship a pirate-ship: "pirates are going to a place to take things" was his statement. He said his ship was a ship of refugees. He also mentioned the fact that it was a more or less political project enabling listeners from Maine to North Carolina to listen to pxs with freedom of speech, not controlled by the government. Aboard the ship there were 6 crewmembers and two radio-engineers, impatiently waiting to switch on the AM transmitter. McIntire told the press that part of the pxs would be live. Guest presenters would be sailing to the ship in small boats. Among the persons McIntire was willing to invite names such as Jane Fonda (fighting against the war), senator George McGovern, Barry Goldwater and last but not least Dean Burch, in those days head of the FCC. Most pxs would be pre-recorded on land including newsbulletins. The 135 foot long Columbus used to be a mine-sweeper a deepseadiving ship off Cape Canaveral in Florida. \$ 40,000 was spent to buy the ship. This money was paid from funds, paid by loyal followewers of McIntire. Carl McIntire refused, in case he was asked to apply for a licence, to do so since a licence would be illegal because a so-called Law of Congress (concerning licences for radio & TV stations) wasn't ever approved. His syndicated radioshows, broadcasted in all parts of the U.S. were an ideal way to point out his personal view. McIntire had always been very critical towards civic disobedience. But he said to his listeners that his plans with RFA had nothing to do with civic disobedience because he wouldn't destroy anything. (To be cont.)

Frs Feature

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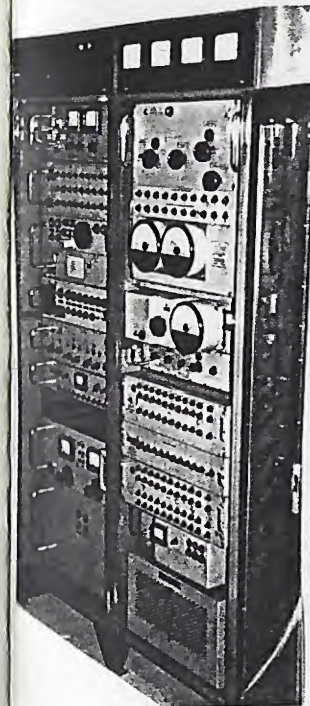
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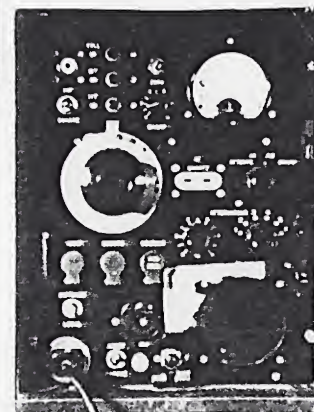
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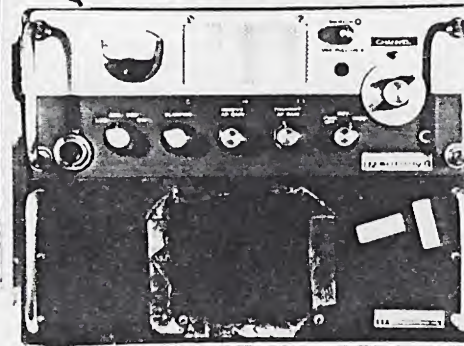


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